

applicants agreed to cancel the claims of Groups I and III without prejudice to reserve the right to file them in a later application. Applicant reiterates this response because the present office action does not appear to acknowledge applicants' June 11, 2002 response.

Claims 17 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to provide antecedent basis for the claim term "the extensible object." Claims 17 and 44 have been amended to overcome any such indefiniteness. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2.

The office action rejected claims 16, 18-20, 27, 28, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Baxter *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,500) ("Baxter"). In particular, the office action alleges that Baxter anticipates the present invention by teaching, *inter alia*, a system for extending the functionality of a class object by creating an extension object from an extension package when a requested functionality is not inherent in the class object. The office action cites column 8, lines 45-61 and column 10, line 19 through column 11, line 67 of Baxter in support of this allegation. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In just one embodiment, the present invention provides a system for extending the functionality of a class object. The invention does so using an extensible object model that creates an extension object from an extension package when a requested

functionality is not inherent in the class object. The extension object, therefore, extends the class object to provide the requested functionality.

Baxter, on the other hand, does not teach or suggest extending the functionality of a class object by creating an extension object from an extension package when a requested functionality is not inherent in the class object. In fact, nowhere does Baxter teach or even suggest that its process for customizing an object includes considering the inherent functionality in the class object, and then looking to an extension package when that functionality is not inherent in the class object. On the contrary, as clearly discussed with reference to Baxter's Figure 8, Baxter is directed to first creating a domain extension, finding its proper collection, and then creating an extensible item in that proper collection.

Baxter's approach is consistent with "San Francisco's" motivation to "provide[] frameworks that define the basis of an application such as a general ledger or order management with well-defined extension points . . . [to provide] user-defined extensions that customize San Francisco for a particular application." (Baxter – column 5, lines 51-56). In other words, Baxter is directed to creating an architecture (*i.e.*, the "San Francisco" architecture) that is amenable to customization for a particular application. By creating such an architecture, users can customize the architecture to fit their application.

This is wholly different than the present invention which permits extension objects from one vendor's application to be available to another vendor's application. The present invention accomplishes this and extends the functionality of a class object by creating an extension object from an extension package when a requested functionality is not inherent in the class object. In this way, in one embodiment, the present invention allows for extending methods and/or properties of an object residing at any level in an application object through an extension object.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) of claims 16, 18-20, 27, 28, 42, and 43 over Baxter.

The office action also further rejected claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Graser *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,275,979). Also, the office action rejected claims 17, 29-33, 35-41, 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the IBM San Francisco framework as disclosed by Baxter in combination with Graser.

For the same reasons discussed above with reference to the rejection of claims 16, 18-20, 27, 28, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) over Baxter, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) over Graser, and claims 17, 29-33, 35-41, 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Baxter in combination with Graser.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at (215) 564-8946.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked up versions of claims 17 and 44 amended herein, showing all of the changes relative to the previous version of each.

17. The computerized system of claim 16, wherein the extensible object model further causes the processing unit to notify the [extensible] extension object when the extension is deleted.

44. A method for extending functionality of a class object, comprising:

invoking a functionality that is not inherent in the class object;
determining if the invoked functionality is available in a first extension object;

creating a second extension object when the invoked functionality is not available in the first extension object; and

directing the invocation to the second extension object.